

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 06636 131506Z

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6897

S E C R E T DAKAR 6636

NODIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PFOR, MA

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH JACQUES RABEMANANJARA

1. I HAD A CONVERSATION ON OCT 9 WITH JACQUES RABEMANANJARA, FORMER MALAGASY FOREIGN MINISTER. RABEMANANJARA, WHOM I HAVE KNOWN FOR SOME 25 YEARS, WAS IN SENEGAL TO ATTEND CEREMONIES ON OCCASION OF PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S 70TH BIRTHDAY. (ACCORDING TO RABEMANANJARA, HE OWES HIS SUCCESSFUL EXIT FROM MADAGASCAR AFTER THE ADVENT OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT TO AN INVITATION TO AN INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR WHICH SENGHOR AND HOUPHOUET ARRANGED FOR HIM.)

2. RABEMANANJARA SAID HE WAS IN TOUCH WITH OTHERS AMONG HIS COUNTRYMEN WHO WERE DISTURBED BY THE NATURE OF THE PRESENT REGIME AND WHO FAVORED A MORE LIBERAL, DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT. HE INQUIRED IF THE US WOULD BE DISPOSED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO A NEW MALAGASY GOVERNMENT IF IT WERE TO COME TO POWER. RABEMANANJARA SAID THERE WERE DIVISIONS WITHIN MILITARY WHICH MADE THIS A REAL POSSIBILITY. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY, HE ASSURED ME THAT HE DID NOT MEAN TO SOLICIT US INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNAL POLITICS OF MALAGASY REPUBLIC, BUT MERELY SOUGHT ASSURANCES THAT US WOULD FAVORABLY CONSIDER POSSIBLE FORMS OF ASSISTANCE SUBSEQUENT TO CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT.

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3. COMMENT: I HAVE BEEN ACQUAINTED WITH RABEMANANJARA SINCE

HIS YEARS OF EXILE IN PARIS PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE, AND HAVE
NEVER HAD REASON TO QUESTION HIS INTEGRITY. I MADE NO
SUBSTANTIVE REPLY TO HIS QUESTION, BUT WAS INFORMED THAT HE
COULD BE CONTACTED THROUGH PRESENCE AFRICAINE IN PARIS WITH
ANY RESPONSE US WISHED TO MAKE.
AGGREY

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NNN

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